

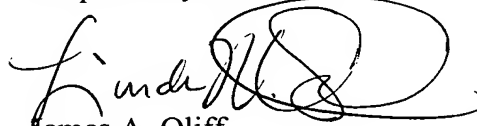
publication dates of Sasaki and Kobayashi. Accordingly, Sasaki and Kobayashi are not prior art.

A verified English-language translation of JP 2003-308968 was enclosed with the March 13, 2006 Amendment. Enclosed herein is a verified English-language translation of JP 2003-015702.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in even better condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

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Registration No. 51,122

JAO:LMS/eks

Attachment:

Verified English-language translation of JP 2003-015702

Date: April 5, 2006

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